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STATUS REPORT
OF THE
TASK FORCE SOUTHEAST ASIA

COVERT ANNEX - VIETNAM
(8-21 August)

I. SOUTH VIETNAM

A. Unconventional Activities

1. Buon Enao:

a. Buon Enao complex now includes 130 villages of which 88 have trained medics. The strike force totals 965, all armed and trained. Refugees awaiting training number 2,016.

b. As of 10 August, Viet Cong (VC) attacks against the Buon Enao complex resulted in the following enemy casualties since February 1962: 122 VC killed, 148 VC captured, and 35 VC surrendered. Of captured personnel, 36 in confinement are being interrogated. The remainder are being resettled in a nearby area.

c. Two additional VC attacks on the Buon Enao complex occurred during the period. Both attacks were repulsed, one with support of Second ADVON strike aircraft.

2. Song Mao:

a. A strike force company of 113 men have completed advance training. 258 village defenders commenced training on 13 August. A strike force attack against a VC build-up in nearby Song Mao resulted in one VC killed, four captured, no friendly losses.

3. A site for a new Citizens' Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) training camp in Serienac Valley, of Tuyen Duc Province, was approved by the province chief on 15 August. A Special Forces team is to be assigned on 5 September.

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4. The Cung Son Camp in Phu Yen Province initiated two training cycles of two groups of 105 village defenders on 12 and 19 August.

5. Hoa Cam:

1,446 trainees are undergoing instruction, including 450 civic action trainees, 278 Mang Buk village defenders, 265 village development trainees from Danang sector, 400 montagnard commandos, 30 nurses, and 23 interpreters being given basic paramilitary training. Training completed: 139 Tama scouts, 425 Force Populaire, 227 Quang Tri trail-watchers, 223 civic action, and 250 Kontum trail-watchers.

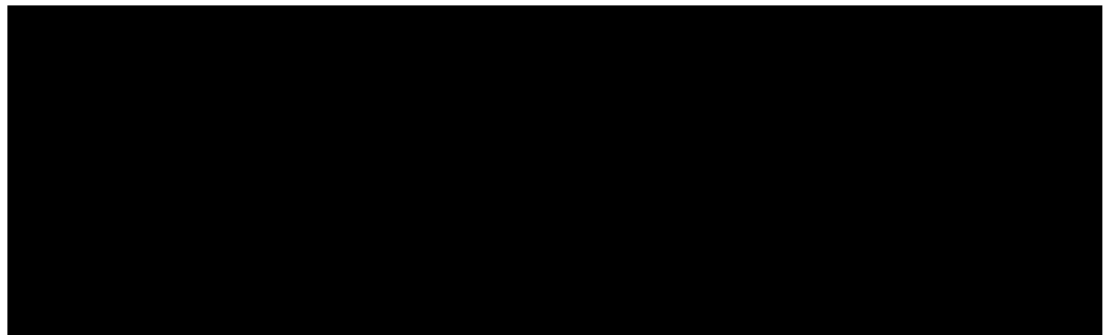
6. Camp Du Tho (Soc Trang):

A second strike company of 120 men has completed training. A third company has entered training. On 9 August a medical team from Du Tho about to visit a nearby village warned of VC presence by a villager. Between 125-135 VC attempted an ambush utilizing mortar, two automatic weapons and small arms. The ambush was overrun by standing charge of a strike force company. Battle persisted approximately two hours, was eventually joined by Self-Defense Corps company. Enemy casualties: 12 killed, 10 wounded; friendly casualties: 4 killed, 4 wounded.

B. Covert Activities

1. The interrogation of a VC prisoner indicates the possible existence of a VC Provincial Committee for Kien Phong Province located in Cambodia two and a half kilometers from the Vietnam border. The VC prisoner was a student there from July 1960 to April 1961. A detailed report is being drawn up.

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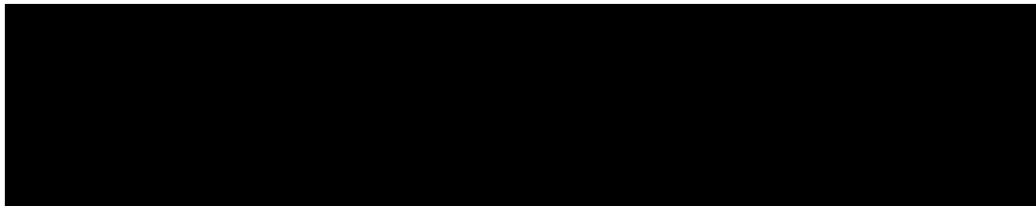
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a. In GVN coastal area VC will concentrate attacks upon provinces of Quang Ngai, Quang Nam, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen; principal targets are railroads, bridges, telephone lines and roads.

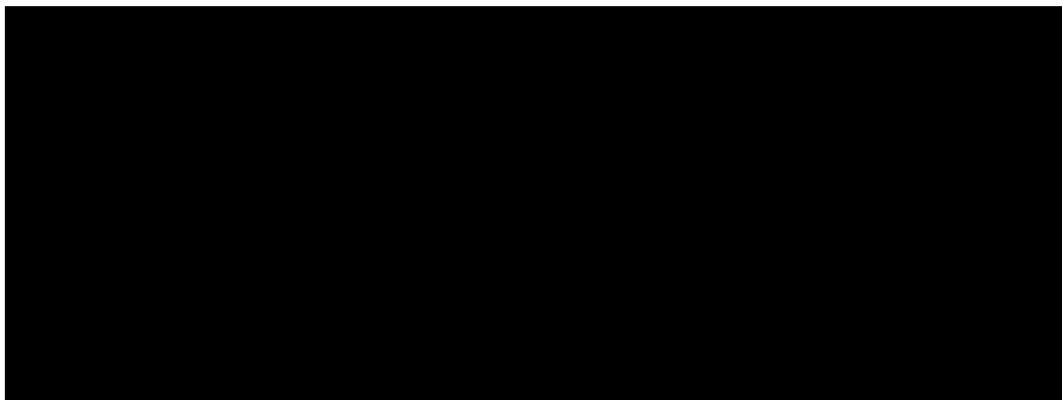
b. In the high plateau VC objectives will be the destruction of GVN military installations and capability near the Laos frontier.

c. In Nambo (southern) region, the VC will reinforce forces in central and eastern zones and concentrate attacks against military posts in Duc Hoa as well as Long An and Tay Ninh Provinces.

d. In special capitol zone, principal activities will be propaganda by tracts, and terrorist activities, using grenades and other explosives.

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II. SOUTH LAOS

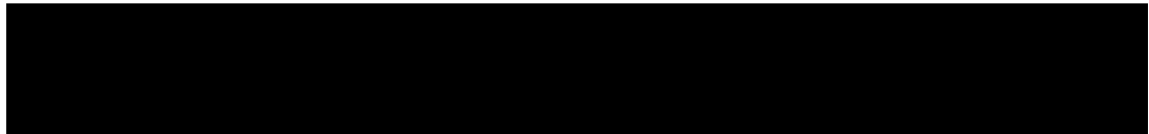
56 Kha were selected for stay-behind missions in the eastern Plateau de Bolvens. Twelve of this group are undergoing radio operator training in Thailand, while the remainder are receiving leadership training. Two base camp locations have been identified and basic preparations made for their establishment. Reassessment of the Kha units trained by MAAG Laos indicates that many more units are reliable and capable enough to include in the stay-behind plan. Operations from South Vietnam into Laos are in abeyance pending policy approval.

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III. NORTH VIETNAM



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